ST BERNARD’S COLLEGE
STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS 2011 - 2016

“Achieving Excellence by Learning and Doing”
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Context and Philosophy

CONTEXT:

St Bernard’s College Essendon is a Catholic day school for boys in the Edmund Rice Tradition.

Edmund Rice founded the Christian Brothers, a religious order of men, in Waterford Ireland in 1802 to educate boys as a response to the social inequity of the times.

The College celebrates a heritage, which originated in its foundation by the Christian Brothers in 1940.

St Bernard’s College Essendon receives its educational mandate from the Catholic Archbishop of Melbourne.

From its foundation, the College was governed by the Christian Brothers and now is governed by Edmund Rice Education Australia.

The College operates in accordance with the policies of the Catholic Education Commission of Victoria and Edmund Rice Education Australia.

The College is a member of the Associated Catholic Colleges (ACC) of Victoria.

The College motto, “Discere et Agere” (to learn and to do), informs a culture where learning is valued and its practical application expected.
Context and Philosophy

PHILOSOPHY:

St Bernard’s College Essendon as a Catholic school in the Edmund Rice Tradition, is an integral part of the mission of the Church and continues to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ - to evangelise, to reconcile and to renew.

We contribute to the development of young men through education and promote their formation in Christian virtue and conscience.

We demonstrate the Church’s commitment to the dignity of the individual, particularly by being called to relationship in community and committing to make a preferential option of the poor.

We are an integral part of Edmund Rice Education Australia and its endeavours to promote quality Catholic education based on its Charter through leadership, service and co-responsibility.

We believe in the inestimable worth of every human individual, for each is made in the image of God and is a reflection of God’s goodness.
Section B

Values

St. Bernard's is a Catholic School community and bears witness to Gospel values that are central to all relationships within the College. We value Stewardship, Excellence, Opportunity and a spirit of Community. These values link the College, the home and the broader community of the Church and are based on the Charter for Catholic Schools in the Edmund Rice Tradition.

Community

We are a faith community promoting the Catholic ethos expressed through the life of Blessed Edmund Rice. Through faith practice we strive to provide a nurturing, structured, caring and supportive environment within a reflective framework. We promote good communication and respect for diversity in our community.

Stewardship

We treasure the life of the College manifested through the contribution and gifts of the whole community. We continuously aim to foster and nurture each individual. Our goal is to develop a sustainable and ongoing approach to all activities at the College. We endeavour to take responsibility for St Bernard's College for ourselves and those who come after us.

Opportunity

Our community strives to provide a holistic and balanced educational environment where all have the opportunity to achieve to the best of their ability. This environment encompasses academic, sporting, cultural and spiritual pursuits through providing quality practices and facilities. We encourage individual pathways catering for transformation that enables growth.

Excellence

Through faith, respect and opportunity, St Bernard’s aspires to be a centre of excellence. We strive for a relevant, authentic and dynamic education where all take advantage of opportunities provided.
Section C

Vision and Mission

VISION STATEMENT

Our vision statement is “Achieving excellence by learning and doing”.

Our focus is to offer a holistic education for our students in a community of faith. We aim to provide opportunities for every student to achieve excellence spiritually, academically, socially, culturally, morally, physically and emotionally. We seek to lead a vibrant community that lives out equality, justice and service to others.

MISSION STATEMENT

St Bernard’s College is a Catholic School in the Edmund Rice tradition.

We will educate for a community where excellence is promoted, opportunity provided and spirituality, together with Gospel based service, practised in a just, learning environment.
Section D

Strategic Goals

VALUE AREA 1: Community

FOCUS STATEMENT:
We are a faith community promoting the Catholic ethos expressed through the life of Blessed Edmund Rice. Through faith practice we strive to provide a nurturing, structured, caring and supportive environment within a reflective framework. We promote good communication and respect for diversity in our community.

GOALS:

1.1 Investigate the development of a stronger connection with the feeder parishes to enhance a sense of community
1.2 Investigate the opportunity for raising the profile of and awareness about the range of services provided by student counsellors
1.3 Examine the possible future role of pastoral care in the daily life of the school to ensure relevance
1.4 Investigate the extent to which our unique position as a boys’ school community is currently being utilised
1.5 Explore a House system across year levels and campuses
1.6 Investigate the introduction of funding for a school nurse and appropriate health care facilities
1.7 Investigate the viability and relevance of a school cafeteria
1.8 Investigate creative ways in which cross campus contact can be improved for staff and students
1.9 Examine ways in which parent/school interaction can be further enhanced
1.10 Develop parent support programs that specialise in adolescent development
1.11 Examine ways in which parent/school communication can be further enhanced
1.12 Develop effective links between the College and its past students
Strategic Goals

VALUE AREA 2: Stewardship

FOCUS STATEMENT:
We treasure the life of the College manifested through the contribution and gifts of the whole community. We continuously aim to foster and nurture each individual. Our goal is to develop a sustainable and ongoing approach to all activities at the College. We endeavour to take responsibility for St Bernard's College for ourselves and those who come after us.

GOALS:

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<th>GOALS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>Establish a connection between past and present students for the purpose of faith development and spirituality</td>
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<td>2.2</td>
<td>Investigate the wider promotion of and increased funding for immersion programs and social justice activities</td>
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<td>2.3</td>
<td>Investigate genuinely innovative approaches to strengthening student faith</td>
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<td>2.4</td>
<td>Implement a building program to cater for current and future student demand</td>
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<td>2.5</td>
<td>Investigate the methodology of the current enrolment selection</td>
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<td>2.6</td>
<td>Implement the determined enrolment priorities</td>
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<td>2.7</td>
<td>Assess issues relating to staff retention at the College</td>
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<td>2.8</td>
<td>Investigate positive symbiotic relationships with organisations outside the College</td>
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<td>2.9</td>
<td>Explore ways in which the college will respond to current and future environmental issues</td>
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<td>2.10</td>
<td>Investigate realistic ways to reduce our carbon footprint and create greater awareness in environmental issues</td>
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Strategic Goals

VALUE AREA 3: Opportunity

FOCUS STATEMENT:
Our community strives to provide a holistic and balanced educational environment where all have the opportunity to achieve to the best of their ability. This environment encompasses academic, sporting, cultural and spiritual pursuits through providing quality practices and facilities. We encourage individual pathways catering for transformation that enables growth.

GOALS:

3.1 Investigate the adequacy of special needs programs for students and the physical spaces and location that is allocated
3.2 Investigate the possibility of expanding the opportunities, both curricula and extra curricular, of coeducation within our community
3.3 Investigate the possibility of first aid courses for students.
3.4 Investigate the viability of the inclusion of food technology into the curriculum.
3.5 Evaluate the feasibility of flexible timetables/structure of the day.
3.6 Review the student pathway options to ensure the needs of students are being met.
3.7 Instigate a plan for the implementation of the Australian Curriculum.
3.8 Create a comprehensive immersion opportunities program.
3.9 Consider the most appropriate class size matrix within the context of college finances, resources and best teaching/learning practices.
3.10 Explore shared learning spaces in future building programs at the College
**Strategic Goals**

**VALUE AREA 4: Excellence**

**FOCUS STATEMENT:**
Through Faith, Respect and Opportunity, St Bernard’s aspires to be a centre of excellence. We strive for a relevant, authentic and dynamic education where all take advantage of opportunities provided.

**GOALS:**

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<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Goal</th>
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<tr>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>Investigate the school structures in the context of the promotion of the healthy body, mind and spirit</td>
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<td>4.2</td>
<td>Investigate the expansion of scholarships being offered to both gifted and struggling students</td>
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<td>4.3</td>
<td>Continuously improve academic standards and results.</td>
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<td>4.4</td>
<td>Extend the literacy program.</td>
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<td>4.5</td>
<td>Develop a plan for the most effective implementation of ICT integration throughout the curriculum.</td>
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<td>4.6</td>
<td>Assess the viability of ICT education specialists.</td>
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<td>4.7</td>
<td>Review the current Professional Development structure and opportunities for staff to ensure currency</td>
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<td>4.8</td>
<td>Investigate models for leadership progression for staff within secondary schools</td>
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